

REMARKS

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-17 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1, 5, 7 and 8:

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,386,478 to Plunkett. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

According to one aspect of claim 1, reproduced sounds generated by sound generators are detected a plurality of times by the same sound generators by repeatedly supplying a noise to the sound generators via variable gain type frequency discriminating circuits and delay circuits. The frequency characteristics of the reproduced sounds are analyzed based on multiplied values of the plurality of detection results, and the frequency characteristics of the variable gain type frequency discriminating circuits are adjusted based on the frequency characteristics obtained from the multiplied values.

As previously pointed out by the Applicant, Plunkett discloses a sound system where frequency of each channel (left and right) is analyzed and adjusted independently (see Id., col. 3, line 66 through col. 4, line 4). In fact, in col. 3, lines 28-35 cited by the Examiner, Plunkett discloses nothing more than that the resulted acoustic signals, which are generated by each loud speaker in response to a test signal, “are analyzed” (see Id.). Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s analysis, nowhere does Plunkett disclose or suggest a method where frequency characteristics of

the reproduced sounds are analyzed based on multiplied values of the plurality of detection results, as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

Further, there is no disclosure of having the reproduced sounds generated by a sound generator(s) detected a plurality of times by the same sound generator(s) by repeating the supplying of the noise to the sound generator(s).

Therefore, Applicant submits that Plunkett fails to disclose each and every feature of claim 1.

Additionally, with regard to claim 5, each of variable gain type frequency discriminating circuits, channel-to-channel level adjusting circuits, and delay circuits of respective signal transmission lines of an audio system are "sequentially" adjusted by supplying a noise signal to the transmission lines and detecting reproduced sounds generated by the sound generating means via respective signal transmission lines. Then levels of the reproduced sounds are analyzed via respective signal transmission lines.

As noted above, Plunkett discloses a sound system where frequency of each channel (left and right) is analyzed and adjusted independently (see Id., col. 3, line 66 through col. 4, line 4). Likewise, nowhere does Plunkett disclose or suggest performing its amplitude balance, or time delay balance sequentially (see Id., col. 3, lines 36 through col. 4, line 16), as recited in Applicant's independent claim 5. Further, there is no disclosure in Plunkett of reproduced sounds generated by a sound generating means during being detected plurality of times by the same sound generating means and by repeating supplying a noise a plurality of times. See claim 5.

Therefore, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 5, as well as the dependent claims 7 and 8 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their base claim 5), are not anticipated by Plunkett at least for these reasons.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections - Claims 3, 4, 6 and 9:

With regard to the dependent claims 3, 4, 6 and 9, Koyama does not supply the above-noted deficiencies of Plunkett. Therefore, dependent claims 3, 4, 6 and 9 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claim 1 and 5), would not have been obvious from any reasonable combination of Plunkett and Koyama at least for these reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1 and 5.

Claims 10-17:

With regard to claims 10-17, although Applicant submits and recognizes that these claims are different than claims 1-9, and have a different scope, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable over the prior art, due to at least the same deficiencies as those set forth above.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg
Registration No. 47,177

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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